



# Interim Forest Management Plan

---

## Property Identifiers

Property Name: **Lake Evelyn State Natural Area**

Counties: **Iron**

Property Acreage: **284 Acres**

Forestry Property Code: **2650, Compartment 302**

Master Plan Date: **None**

---

## Part 1: Property Assessment

The Lake Evelyn State Natural Area lies within the Ceded Territory of the state and is located most closely to the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe.

Native American tribes are independent, sovereign nations, as they were prior to the arrival of Europeans in North America. The Ojibwe Tribes ceded lands in the northern one-third of Wisconsin to the United States government in the Treaties of 1837 and 1842. In those Treaties, they reserved their rights to hunt, trap, fish and gather within various publicly-owned lands. Treaty rights are currently being exercised and implemented by the Ojibwe Tribes within the Ceded Territory.

## General Property Description

### Landscape and Regional Context

Lake Evelyn is an undeveloped 55-acre soft-water seepage lake surrounded by wetlands and gently rolling uplands. While many of northern Wisconsin lakes of this size are already developed or are planning development, Lake Evelyn is a rare and undeveloped wilderness lake. Of all lakes over 50 acres in Wisconsin only 70 remain that have the majority of their shoreline in public ownership. With a maximum depth of 9 feet, Lake Evelyn is a stained water lake with moderate clarity and contains a good quality fishery composed mainly of large-mouthed bass and panfish. The lake forms the headwaters of Evelyn Creek, a tributary of the Turtle River. The property is located within the Winegar Moraine-Moose Creek Conservation Opportunity Area.



# Interim Forest Management Plan

## Site Specifics

- **History of Land Use:**

Lake Evelyn SNA was purchased from Iron County and also a private landowner, in 1997 and 1999, respectively. The privately owned land was located along the southern shoreline of the lake. This parcel included several cabins and buildings that were removed in the years following acquisition by the Department. This portion of the property has not been cut in recent history and the cabin areas are reverting to forested stands. The formerly Iron County owned portion of the property contains stands of northern hardwoods that have been thinned through in relatively recent times.

- **Current forest types, size classes and successional stages**

Aspen – 27 Acres (13%)  
Northern Hardwoods – 72 Acres (33%)  
Red Pine – 3 Acres (1%)  
Swamp Hardwoods – 15 Acres (7%)  
Conifer Swamp – 53 Acres (24%)  
Non-forested wetlands – 46 Acres (22%)

Currently, there is a wide array of age class, species diversity, structure, and size distribution across this property. Within all these stands, there is a mix of saplings, poletimber and sawtimber size classes. Much of the accessible areas of this property were harvested during the logging era of the turn of the last century through the 1940s, removing the white pine, hemlock and then hardwoods. The aspen stands are older age class and showing signs of stand senescence, with many trees falling out, leaving an incomplete canopy in several areas. Some of the northern hardwoods were managed in relatively recent history and are in pole timber size classes. The areas of the property that formerly contained buildings are succeeding to a mix of balsam, white pine and red pine.

- **Biotic Inventory Status** – Biotic Inventory has not taken place on this property.
- **Deferral/Consultation Sites** – None have been designated.
- **High Conservation Value Forest** – Lake Evelyn itself is a wild lake and consideration should be given to aesthetics when establishing timber sales near the lake.
- **Rare Species** – The NHI database will be screened prior to any management activities taking place.
- **Invasive Species** – Significant populations of invasive plant species are not known to occur on the property, but a comprehensive survey has not taken place.

## Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites:** There is an Archaeological Site identified by the Wisconsin Historical Society to the south of this property. Consultation with the State Archeologist resulted in no change to the proposed management of this property.



# Interim Forest Management Plan

- **Recreational Uses:** Fishing, hunting, trapping and sightseeing are the primary recreational uses on this property. A boat launch is located on the east side of Lake Evelyn.

---

## Part 2: IFMP Components

### Site Objectives

Throughout the property, the long term goal is to manage towards stand conditions that exhibit old-forest characteristics and diverse tree species, where possible. In the uplands, active management will be used in some stands. Natural processes will determine the structure of the wetlands.

### **Management approach**

Aspen and northern hardwoods will be managed to promote natural cover type diversity for this area. Use timber harvests to increase growth and vigor of the northern hardwoods stands and long-term conversion of the aspen stands to longer-lived species, specifically hemlock-hardwoods. The long-term goal of these stands is to create old forest characteristics.

The initial harvests are needed to prepare the stands for more options in the future, and to reach the property goals sooner. Presently they are in less than ideal status for growth and vigor. Apply appropriate silvicultural systems when conducting timber management activities.

**Property Prescriptions** (Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives):

**The Northwest District Ecologist should be contacted prior to establishment of timber sales on Lake Evelyn State Natural Area.**

**Aspen** – Convert aspen stands to longer-lived species wherever opportunities exist. Green tree retention will be practiced in these stands while also focusing on snag and den/cavity tree retention. Retention will be concentrated near and between ephemeral ponds, where possible. In most cases, all pine, oak, hemlock and cedar will be retained, and areas of advanced regeneration of these species will be protected and released.

**Northern Hardwoods**—In actively managed stands, use uneven-aged selection (single tree or group selection) harvests to encourage long term multi-aged diversity. Gaps will be created to encourage age class diversity and edge cover. Promote oak, yellow birch and hemlock where opportunities exist. Snags, cavity trees, and other trees that have special value to wildlife will be retained. The long-term goal of these stands is to create old-growth forest characteristics.

**Red Pine** – Periodically thin with the long term goal of gradually converting to a mixed stand of red pine, white pine and northern hardwoods.

**Forested Wetlands and Unforested Wetlands** – The swamp hardwoods and conifer swamp stands will not be managed using timber sales. Periodically check these areas for the presence of invasive species and use appropriate control measures where needed.



# Interim Forest Management Plan

## Approvals:

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Ecologist Northwest District Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Forester Iron County Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Manager for Lake Evelyn State Natural Area Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area/Team Supervisor Iron County Date